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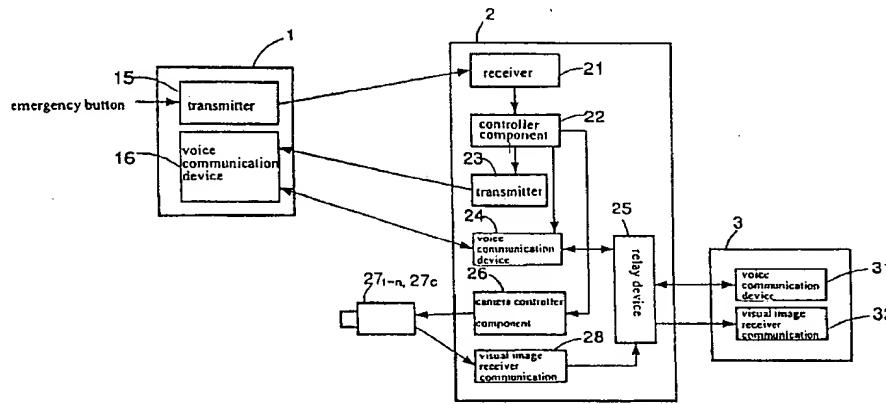
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(54) COMMUNICATION METHOD AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

(57) When emergency button (11) of mobile unit (1) of a person who has suddenly fallen ill or other emergency, locational signals representing its own location and ID data are transmitted to receiver (21) of management unit (2) installed in the caddie master's office or at other locations. Based on the locational signals from receiver (21), camera controller component (26) selects camera (27₁)~(27_n), (27_c) and controls panning and tilting of the selected camera, thereby adjusting its angle. Signals representing pictures taken by camera (27₁)~(27_n), (27_c) are received by visual image receiver component (28) and, together with vocal signals

received from voice communication device (16) through voice communication device (24), transmitted from relay device (25) through a public circuit to visual image receiver component (32) and voice communication device (31) of remote unit (3). By operating the dial or push buttons of voice communication device (31), panning and tilting of camera (27₁)~(27_n), (27_c) are controlled in order to adjust its angle, and vocal signals are transmitted from voice communication device (31) to mobile unit (1).

F I G. 1

Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to a method and system for communication of data including visual images taken by a picture-taking device.

BACKGROUND ART

Conventionally, various systems for remotely controlling a picture-taking device in its focusing and picture-taking functions such as panning and tilting, and transmitting pictures obtained by said remote control through a communication means are widely known.

Also known to those skilled in the art are a system disclosed in Japanese Patent Laying-open No. 191133/1988 which calls for transmitting signals from a transmitting means attached to a subject to be photographed and taking photographs of this subject upon receiving these signals using a receiving means; another disclosed in Japanese Utility Model Laying-open No. 117625/1989 which calls for taking visual images of a subject by means of receiving signals transmitted from a transmitting means attached to the subject and causing a picture-taking device to follow the direction of the strongest signal, and another disclosed in Japanese Patent Laying-open No. 134351/1981 which calls for following a subject using a transmitting means attached to the subject and, shooting for a specified period of time.

However, the aforementioned system which controls performance of a picture-taking device by remote control is capable of receiving visual data signals only by changing the settings of the picture-taking device, and the configurations according to Japanese Patent Laying-open No. 191133/1988 and Japanese Utility Model Laying-open No. 117625/1989 merely call for causing a picture-taking device to follow a subject to take visual images thereof. Therefore, none of them is capable of fullest use of the pictures taken.

Further, in case of an emergency, for example, if conditions of a patient or his situation can be visually presented, it would help a doctor who may be at a hospital or other facilities remotely located in making appropriate decision and therefore might save the patient's life. For such a reason, too, there exists a need for a system which is capable of easily transmitting visual images of a specific subject to the doctor in such a case as above.

In order to solve the above problems, an object of the invention is to provide a communication method and system for transmitting visual images which have been taken by a picture-taking device and sent by a sender to the receiving party through a relay station.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

A method according to the invention calls for transmitting signals representing the voice of a sender; 5 receiving the vocal signals from the sender at a relay station; controlling picture-taking functions of a picture-taking device to take pictures of the sender; transmitting the vocal signals from the sender together with the visual images of same, which have been taken by the picture-taking device, from the relay station to a receiving party; and transmitting vocal signals of the receiving party through the relay station to the sender. Therefore, as the invention is capable of transmitting visual images of the sender to the receiving party through the relay 10 station and allowing 2-way voice communications between the sender and the receiving party through the relay station, the receiving party is able to easily obtain visual images of the sender, and both parties can easily communicate with each other.

15 According to another feature thereof, the invention calls for transmitting data for the location of the sender so that the locational data is received and used to control the performance of the picture-taking device. Therefore, according to the invention, it is easy to know the location of the sender of the signals and take his pictures with a picture-taking device.

20 According to yet another feature of the invention, the receiving party controls the direction in which the picture-taking device is pointed. Therefore, it is easy for the receiving party to obtain desired pictures.

25 According to yet another feature of the invention, physical conditions of a subject are monitored; and the relay station transmits the data of his physical conditions to the receiving party together with his pictures taken by the picture-taking device. With the configuration as above, the receiving party is able to easily obtain data of physical conditions of the subject and, therefore, is ensured of knowing the subject's conditions with visual images of same.

30 According to yet another feature thereof, the invention calls for storing data of normal conditions of a subject; and transmitting the normal condition data together with the aforementioned data of his physical conditions to the receiving party. With the configuration as above, the receiving party is able to assess the physical conditions of the subject referring to his normal conditions, thereby more reliably judging his current condition.

35 Furthermore, according to yet another feature of the invention, the invention is provided with one or more mobile units, each of which has a mobile unit transmitting/receiving means for transmitting and receiving vocal signals; a remote unit which has a remote unit transmitting/receiving means for transmitting and receiving vocal signals as well as receiving visual signals, the remote unit also having an image display means for displaying visual images; one or more picture-taking devices; and a management unit which has a picture-taking device controlling means for controlling the picture-taking function of the picture-taking devices,

and a relay means for relaying communication between the aforementioned mobile unit transmitting/receiving means and remote unit transmitting/receiving means. With the configuration as above, the remote is capable of receiving signals representing visual images of a subject taken by picture-taking devices, and voice communication is possible between the remote unit and the mobile unit.

According to yet another feature of the invention, the remote unit is provided with picture-taking directing means for directing the manner of performance of picture-taking devices. With the configuration as above, which permits the remote unit to easily direct how pictures of a subject are to be taken, it is easy for the user of the remote unit to obtain desired pictures.

According to yet another feature thereof, the invention is provided with a physical condition monitoring means for monitoring physical conditions of a subject; and the mobile unit transmitting/receiving means of each mobile unit is capable of transmitting the physical condition data through the relay station to the remote unit transmitting/receiving means. With the configuration as above, the user of the remote unit is able to easily obtain data concerning the physical conditions of the subject and, therefore, is ensured of knowing the subject's conditions with visual images of same.

According to yet another feature thereof, the invention is provided with a physical condition storage means for storing data of normal conditions of a subject; and the relay means transmits the normal condition data together with the aforementioned data of his physical conditions to the remote unit transmitting/receiving means. With the configuration as above, the user of the remote unit is able to assess the physical conditions of the subject referring to his normal conditions, thereby more reliably judging his current condition.

According to yet another feature thereof, the invention is provided with an image composite means for combining visual images of a subject taken by a picture-taking device with data of his physical conditions which has been monitored by the physical condition monitoring means. With the configuration as above, it is easy for the user of the remote unit to know the status of the subject and data of his physical conditions by way of looking at the pictures.

According to yet another feature of the invention, each mobile unit is provided with an extracting means to extract data for its own location; the mobile unit transmitting/receiving means transmits the locational information extracted by the extracting means to the relay means; the management unit is provided with a receiving means to receive said locational information from the mobile unit; and the picture-taking device controlling means controls performance of the picture-taking devices based on the locational information received as above. With the configuration as above, it is easy to know the location of the sender and control the picture-taking devices by means of the picture-taking device controlling means.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a communication system according to an embodiment of the present invention; Fig. 2 is a front view of a mobile unit of same; Fig. 3 is an explanatory drawing of disposition of cameras of same; Fig. 4 is an explanatory drawing to show how the camera placed on a cart is used; Fig. 5 is a block diagram illustrating extraction of a location by means of a plurality of receiving devices of same; Fig. 6 is an explanatory drawing to illustrate the manner of triangulation range finding at the time of location extraction of Fig. 5; Fig. 7 is an explanatory drawing to illustrate range finding by the aforementioned camera; Fig. 8 is an explanatory drawing of a subject in a picture flame; Fig. 9 is an explanatory drawing to illustrate the relationship between the distance and zooming with said camera; Fig. 10 is an explanatory drawing to illustrate the manner of location detection by means of GPS; Fig. 11 is an explanatory drawing to illustrate a course divided into cells; Fig. 12 is a block diagram illustrating a communication system according to another embodiment of the present invention; and Fig. 13 is a block diagram illustrating a communication system according to yet another embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Next, a communication system according to an embodiment of the present invention is explained hereunder, referring to the drawings, as to a case where the communication system is utilized on a golf course.

Referring to Fig. 1, numeral 1 denotes a mobile unit which is in the possession of each player or caddie. Each mobile unit 1 is capable of communicating through wireless means such as radio waves with management unit 2 which is installed in a clubhouse and serves as a relay station. Through ISDN or public lines such as a general telephone line or wireless means, management unit 2 is capable of communicating with a remote unit 3 installed in such facilities as a hospital.

As shown in Fig. 2, mobile unit 1 is provided with a liquid crystal display 5 to display guidance and other information, a ten-key pad 6 to input scores and so forth, a function display key 7 to display various functions to be performed, a select/execute key 8 and scroll keys 9, as well as a light pen 10 attached to the mobile unit and an emergency button 11 located on the topside of the unit. And as shown in Fig. 1, mobile unit 1 is provided with a transmitter 15 and a voice communication device 16, with transmitter 15 being provided with its own identification number, which may be, for example, the personal identification number of the player in possession of the mobile unit 1, and transmitting signals noticing of an emergency or its location together with its identification data; and voice communication device 16 being provided with voice communication capability. In addition to the above mentioned functions, mobile unit 2

is also capable of performing such functions as score tabulation, detecting its own location, guidance display, settling accounts and so forth.

Management unit 2 is provided with a receiver 21 which receives signals from transmitter 15 of mobile unit 1 either directly or by way of antennae disposed at desired locations within the course; and a controller component 22 which executes control commands based on information received from receiver 21. Further, controller component 22 is connected to transmitter 23 which activates voice communication device 16 of a mobile unit 1; in addition, controller component 22 is provided with a voice communication device 24 which allows voice communication with voice communication device 16 of said mobile unit 1 to occur after voice communication device 16 is activated. Controller component 22 is also connected to a camera controller component 26, which issues commands pertaining to the selection, direction, angle, and when the situation demands, the distance, of each respective cameras 27₁~27_n, 27_c. Further, signals representing visual images from any one of cameras 27₁~27_n, 27_c are received by visual image receiver component 28, with visual image receiver component 28 and voice communication device 24 being connected to a relay device 25.

Remote unit 3 is provided with a voice communication device 31, which may be a telephone or the like, and a visual image receiver component 32 which may be a monitor, voice communication device 31 and visual image receiver component 32 being connected to relay device 25 of management unit 2 by such means as the aforementioned public transmission lines.

As shown in Fig. 3, cameras 27₁ to 27_n are placed around the perimeter of each hole. Further, as shown in Fig. 4, should it be necessary, an on-vehicle camera 27_c may be placed atop a golf cart 29, in which case on-vehicle receiver 30 which receives control signals from camera controller component 26 is also placed atop a golf cart 29, camera 27_c being driven by on-vehicle receiver 30. Each camera 27₁~27_n, 27_c is respectively provided with mechanisms to perform panning, tilting, as well as zooming, and may also be provided with auto-focus capability.

Selection of cameras 27₁~27_n, 27_c as well as control of panning, tilting and zooming of the selected cameras 27_i is performed by camera controller component 26. However, on-vehicle camera 27_c need not be among any of said cameras 27_i. Further, in cases where cameras are to be automatically selected, a camera 27₁~27_n, 27_c nearest the subject to be filmed, for example, can be selected.

As shown in Fig. 5, a plurality of relay devices 17₁~17_n and direction determining components 33₁~33_n may be provided, relay devices 17₁~17_n being respectively provided with directional antennae and corresponding to said direction determining components 33₁~33_n, so that the location of transmitter 15 may be detected by a location computing component 34 based on the direction determined by these direction determin-

ing components 33₁~33_n. As to a number of relay devices 17₁~17_n, at least two devices are needed to determine a direction and a distance by using the principle of triangulation.

Next, referring to Fig. 10, another embodiment of the present invention is explained hereunder, said embodiment calling for detecting a location by means of mobile unit 1 itself and transmitting signals including the data for the location thus detected.

In this case, the direction and distance to mobile unit 1 from camera 27₁~27_n, 27_c may be determined by means of, for example, providing each hole with a plurality of antennae 41 which transmit reference radio waves or providing mobile unit 1 with a navigation function such as GPS (Global Positioning System) which uses reference radio waves from a plurality of satellites 42 and displays the location of mobile unit 1 in terms of latitude and longitude so that the direction and distance to mobile unit 1 from camera 27₁~27_n, 27_c can be computed from the absolute locations of mobile unit 1 and the camera.

As shown in Fig. 11, the terrain of a hole or the entire course may be divided into cells in a matrix, each cell having its own ID number, so that the location of mobile unit 1 may be represented by a cell number. In cases where this cell system is applied, data of the respective directions and distances to the cells with respect to each camera 27₁~27_n, 27_c may be stored beforehand so that cameras 27₁~27_n, 27_c can be selected and controlled by directly using said data. Furthermore, the most suitable camera 27₁~27_n, 27_c to be used for each cell may be included in the cell data to be stored. Cells are formed by dividing the entire course or the terrain from the tee ground to the green of each hole into small areas in a matrix which measures, for example, 3 m on a side.

Next, operation of the above embodiments is described hereunder.

In case of an emergency such as when a player is seriously injured or collapses, by operation of emergency button 11 of mobile unit 1 by the player himself or a person accompanying him, mobile unit 1 transmits the emergency signal as well as the locational signal indicating its own location together with its ID data to receiver 21 of management unit 2.

At this time, instead of having mobile unit 1 transmitting the signal to notify its own location, the system may be configured such that the location of mobile unit 1 is computed by location computing component 34 shown in Fig. 5 and that signals including the locational signal indicating the location computed by this location computing component 34 are received by receiver 21. In this case, the location is determined based on signal receiving conditions of the plurality of relay devices 17₁~17_n. In other words, as distance between two relay devices 17₁ and 17₂ is constant as shown in Fig. 6, the location of transmitter 15 that transmitted the signals is determined by location computing component 34 by ascertaining the respective directions to transmitter 15

from relay devices 17_1 and 17_2 , and the signals which include the locational signal indicating the current location of the specific transmitter 15 are transmitted to receiver 21.

As a result, according to the ID data included in the signals received by receiver 21, controller component 22 controls transmitter 23 to send signals which activate voice communication device 16 of mobile unit 1, thereby allowing voice communication between voice communication devices 16 and 24. A number of communication channels during normal circumstances can be reduced by preventing voice communication device 16 from being activated under normal circumstances and granting voice communication to only a specific mobile unit 1 in case of an emergency.

Based on the locational signal of receiver 21, camera controller component 26 of controller component 22 is controlled so that camera controller component 26 selects the most suitable camera 27_1 ~ 27_n , 27_c according to the criteria set beforehand. Panning and tilting of camera 27_1 ~ 27_n , 27_c selected by camera controller component 26 is controlled in order to adjust the angle of its view.

Selected camera 27_1 ~ 27_n , 27_c determines the distance to the subject through control by camera controller component 26 or by automatic focusing using components incorporated in the camera itself, such as light emitting elements and photo-electric elements or, as shown in Fig. 7, an ultrasonic transmitter 27e and ultrasonic receiver 27r, said automatic focusing being performed by emitting light or signals from the light emitting elements or ultrasonic transmitter 27e and computing the distance to the subject based on the length of time from when the light or the signals are emitted to when they are received by the photo-electric elements or ultrasonic receiver 27r.

At this time, camera 27_1 ~ 27_n , 27_c is zoomed so that the proportion of the image of the subject in relation to the size of the frame is constant as shown in Fig. 8. In other words, when the distance from camera 27_1 ~ 27_n or 27_c to the subject is L, the height of the subject M, the focal length of the lens of the camera F, and the length of the image of the subject in the frame K as shown in Fig. 9, K is approximately equal to $F \times M/L$, if value L is sufficiently large. Therefore, granting that M is the average height of an adult and constant, K can be made constant by changing focal length F according to distance L to transmitter 15 which has been measured.

The signals representing visual images of the person who is injured or ill, these pictures being taken by cameras 27_1 ~ 27_n , 27_c , are received by visual image receiver component 28. The visual signals and vocal signals, which have been received from voice communication device 16 through voice communication device 24, are transmitted by relay device 25 through public lines respectively to visual image receiver component 32 and voice communication device 31 of remote unit 3.

Further, in order to cope with such cases where a doctor or other person using remote unit 3 wants spe-

cific pictures, the system may have such a configuration as to permit him to operate a dial or buttons or the like on voice communication device 31 to transmit DTMF signals through relay device 25 to camera controller component 26 so that camera 27_1 ~ 27_n , 27_c is selected and controlled to perform zooming, panning and tilting. This can be done by a setting such that, for example, pushing 2 causes upward tilting; pushing 8 downward tilting; pushing 4 panning to left; pushing 6 panning to right; pushing 1 zooming up; pushing 7 zooming down; and pushing 1 and the ID number of the desired camera when changing cameras.

The configuration as above facilitates looking at visual images of the patient on the course in favorable conditions by means of remote unit 3 installed in a hospital or the like and also provides communication with mobile unit 1 through telephone or other means which serves as voice communication device 31. As the invention thus makes it possible to know the conditions of the patient and give necessary directions for treatment of the patient and so forth, it has a merit in improving effect of first aid treatment.

Further, as management unit 2 at a clubhouse can be connected to remote unit 3 at a hospital through public lines, installation of a system according to the invention is relatively easy.

Next, another embodiment is explained hereunder, referring to Fig. 12.

The embodiment shown in Fig. 12 is a simpler version of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1 and does not have receiver 23 of management unit 2. In this embodiment, communication between voice communication device 16 of mobile unit 1 and voice communication device 24 of management unit 2 is activated by operating emergency button 11.

Omitting receiver 23 makes necessary an increased number of channels in order to avoid radio interference. On the other hand, it is advantageous in providing immediate communication.

Next, yet another embodiment is explained hereunder, referring to Fig. 13.

The embodiment shown in Fig. 13 has the same configuration as the embodiment shown in Fig. 12 except that it is capable of monitoring various physical conditions. Furthermore, a system having the configuration as the embodiment shown in Fig. 1 may also have a means of monitoring physical conditions.

According to the configuration of the embodiment, transmitter 15 of mobile unit 1 is capable of being connected to a monitoring instrument 51 for various physical conditions, such as body temperature, pulse, blood pressure and so on, through a wire circuit or wireless means.

Said monitoring instrument 51 may be of various types: for example, a constantly-worn type to be worn all the time, which may be in the shape similar to a wrist watch and measures body temperature, blood pressure, pulse and so on from the temperature of the surface of the body and blood vessels around the wrist by means

of a thermometer, a pressure gauge, an infrared sensor or the like; an in-contact-when-necessary type to be brought into contact with a part of body, such as inside the mouth or an arm, to measure body temperature, blood pressure, pulse and so on by means of a thermometer, a pressure gauge, an infrared sensor or the like whenever necessary; and a fixed-installation type installed at a fixed location such as at a rest area in a clubhouse or a shop on the grounds of the course. Said fixed-installation type may have the configuration which calls for inputting the ID date of the user through his mobile unit 1 or other means, and setting a part of the user's body, such as an arm, on the equipment to obtain information of his physical condition. In cases where the constantly-worn type or the in-contact-when-necessary type is used, data of body conditions is detected near the user's mobile unit 1. Therefore, the data may be input into mobile unit 1 by connecting it to monitoring instrument 51 or, because they are at close range, through weak radio waves. In case of the fixed-installation type, data may be directly input to management unit 2 without going through mobile unit 1.

Furthermore, mobile unit 1 is provided with a receiver 52 for receiving signals which inform of abnormal physical conditions. Upon receiving such warning signals from management unit 2, receiver 52 gives warning by voice or sounding alarm, as well as displaying a message, such as "Body temperature is rising, presenting danger of heat stroke: Drink fluids and rest in a cool place", "Blood pressure above normal range: Stop game and return to clubhouse", "Irregular pulse: Stop game temporarily and rest at the nearest rest area for at least 30 minutes" or the like on liquid crystal display 5.

Management unit 2 is provided with a physical condition storage component 53 for storing data of physical conditions monitored by monitoring instrument 51 and transmitted from mobile unit 1, physical condition storage component 53 storing transmitted data in the order of elapsed time from prior to starting the game and thereafter. Physical condition storage component 53 is also connected to relay device 25.

Physical condition storage component 53 is also connected to a judging component 54 which judges whether abnormal physical conditions are being experienced by comparing current conditions with those stored in physical condition storage component 53. Further, judging component 54 is connected to a transmitter 55, which transmits warning signals to receiver 52 of mobile unit 1 when physical conditions of the subject is judged to be abnormal.

Remote unit 3 is provided with a physical condition display component 55 which has image composite function and is capable of generating composite images representing physical conditions of a patient on the display.

Next, operation of the above embodiments shown in Fig. 13 is described hereunder.

Its operational procedure is basically the same as that of the embodiment shown in Fig. 12.

First of all, store data of normal conditions of each player in physical condition storage component 53 beforehand by inputting it using keyboard 6 or assessing his physical conditions prior to starting the game by means of monitoring instrument 51.

Then, during the game, check physical conditions at regular intervals or whenever desired by means of monitoring instrument 51. The data of this assessment is stored in physical condition storage component 53 in the order of elapsed time and also compared by judging component 54 with the data of the normal conditions or the data of the conditions before starting the game, which is also stored in physical condition storage component 53. In cases where any abnormal condition is detected in this judgement step, judging component 54 causes transmitter 55 to send out warning signals. When the warning signals have been transmitted, receiver 52 sounds an alarm and displays an appropriate message, such as those described above, on liquid crystal display 5.

When emergency button 11 is activated, in addition to sound signals and visual signals of pictures taken by one of cameras 27₁~27_n, 27_c, data of physical conditions of the subject stored in physical condition storage component 53 is transmitted through relay device 25 to remote unit 3.

In remote unit 3, the physical condition data stored in physical condition storage component 53 is combined with pictures taken by camera 27₁~27_n, 27_c and displayed in the form of composite image. Physical condition data to be displayed includes data of normal conditions, physical conditions before starting the game and those obtained by assessment after starting the game, as well as the current condition. As these physical conditions are displayed in the order of elapsed time, with the changes of physical conditions and the current state being thus presented, the changes in the condition of the patient can be reliably known.

Furthermore, the patient's chronic illness, allergies, current medication and other data may be stored in physical condition storage component 53 beforehand using ten-key pad 6 of mobile unit 1 or other means.

As it is possible to know about physical conditions of the person who has been injured or fallen ill, following the flow of time and in real time according to this embodiment shown in Fig. 13, the embodiment ensures of giving appropriate care in an emergency and effective early-stage treatment.

Furthermore, the term "sender" referred to in the above explanation and appended claims, whose pictures are being taken, is not limited to the person who actually sends signals; it may also mean the injured or the sick person, who is at a location near the actual sender and whose physical conditions are monitored.

55 INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

As described above, the communication method and its system is suitable to be used for giving first aid to

a person who has been injured or fallen ill on a golf course or other locations.

Claims

1. A communication method which calls for:
 transmitting signals representing the voice of a sender;
 receiving the vocal signals from said sender at a relay station;
 taking picture of said sender by controlling picture-taking functions of a picture-taking device;
 transmitting the vocal signals from said sender together with the visual images of same, which have been taken by said picture-taking device, from said relay station to a receiving party; and
 transmitting vocal signals of the receiving party through said relay station to the sender.

2. A communication method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
 data for the location of the sender is transmitted;
 said locational data is received; and
 picture-taking functions of a picture-taking device is controlled according to said locational data.

3. A communication method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein:
 the receiving party controls the direction in which the picture-taking device is pointed.

4. A communication method as claimed in any claim from claim 1 to claim 3, wherein:
 physical conditions of a subject are monitored; and
 the relay station transmits said data of physical conditions of said subject to a receiving party together with pictures of said subject taken by the picture-taking device.

5. A communication method as claimed in claim 4, wherein:
 data of normal physical conditions of a subject is stored; and
 said normal condition data is transmitted to a receiving party together with data of his physical conditions.

6. A communication system which is provided with:
 one or more mobile units, each of which has a mobile unit transmitting/receiving means for transmitting and receiving vocal signals;
 a remote unit which has a remote unit transmitting/receiving means for transmitting and receiving vocal signals as well as receiving visual signals, said remote unit also having an image display

means for displaying visual images;
 one or more picture-taking devices; and
 a management unit which has a picture-taking device controlling means for controlling the picture-taking function of said picture-taking devices, and a relay means for relaying communication between said mobile unit transmitting/receiving means and said remote unit transmitting/receiving means.

7. A communication system as claimed in claim 6, wherein:
 said remote unit is provided with a picture-taking directing means for directing the manner of performance of picture-taking devices.

8. A communication system as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7, wherein:
 a physical condition monitoring means for monitoring physical conditions of a subject is provided; and
 the mobile unit transmitting/receiving means of each mobile unit is capable of transmitting said physical condition data through the relay station to the remote unit transmitting/receiving means.

9. A communication system as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
 a physical condition storage means for storing data of normal conditions of a subject is provided; and
 the relay means transmits said normal condition data together with data of physical conditions of said subject to the remote unit transmitting/receiving means.

10. A communication system as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9, wherein:
 an image composite means for combining visual images of a subject taken by a picture-taking device with data of his physical conditions which has been monitored by the physical condition monitoring means is provided.

11. A communication system as claimed in any claim from claim 6 to claim 10, wherein:
 each mobile unit is provided with an extracting means to extract data for its own location;
 the mobile unit transmitting/receiving means transmits the locational information extracted by said extracting means to the relay means;
 the management unit is provided with a receiving means to receive said locational information from said mobile unit; and
 the picture-taking device controlling means controls performance of the picture-taking devices based on said locational information received as above.

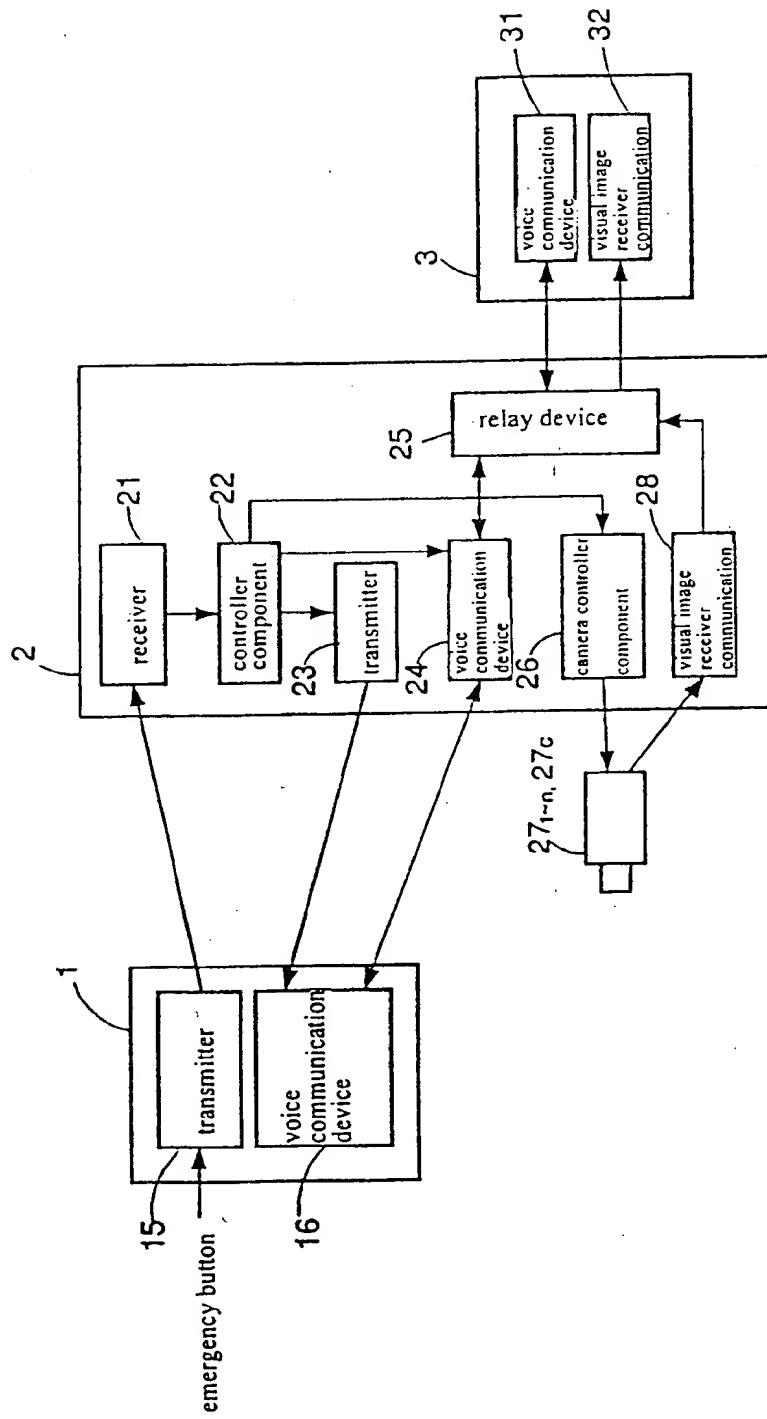
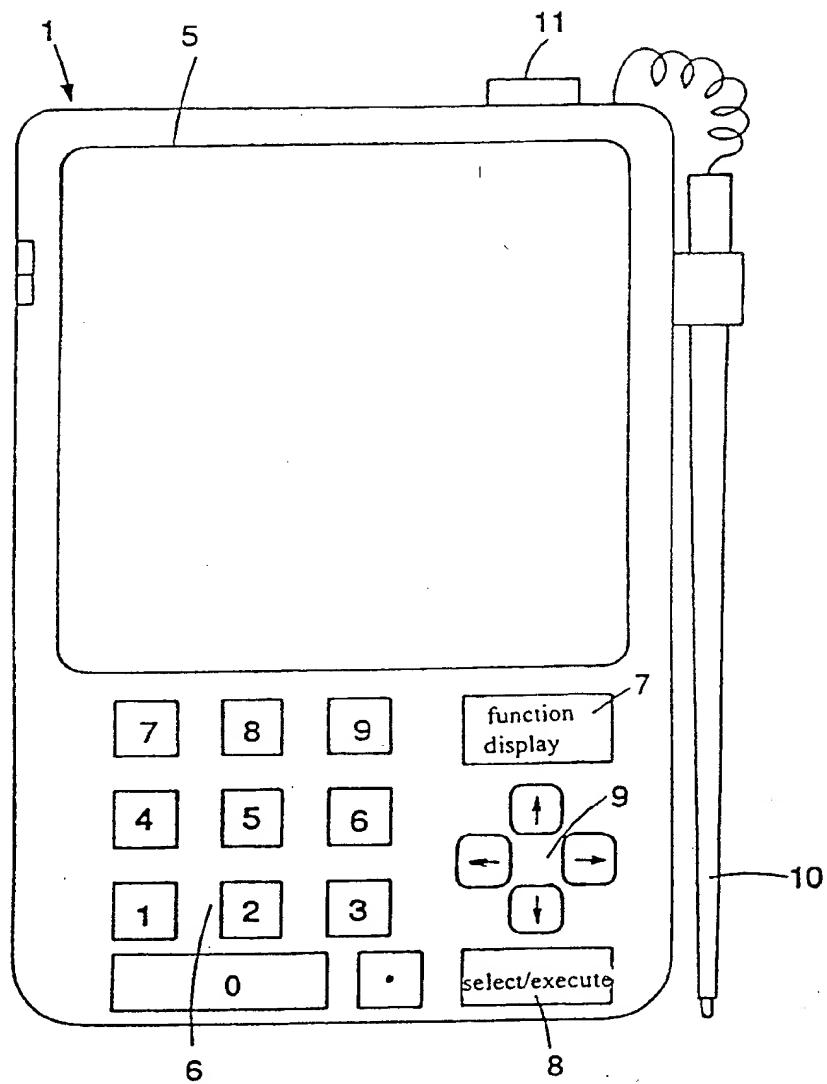
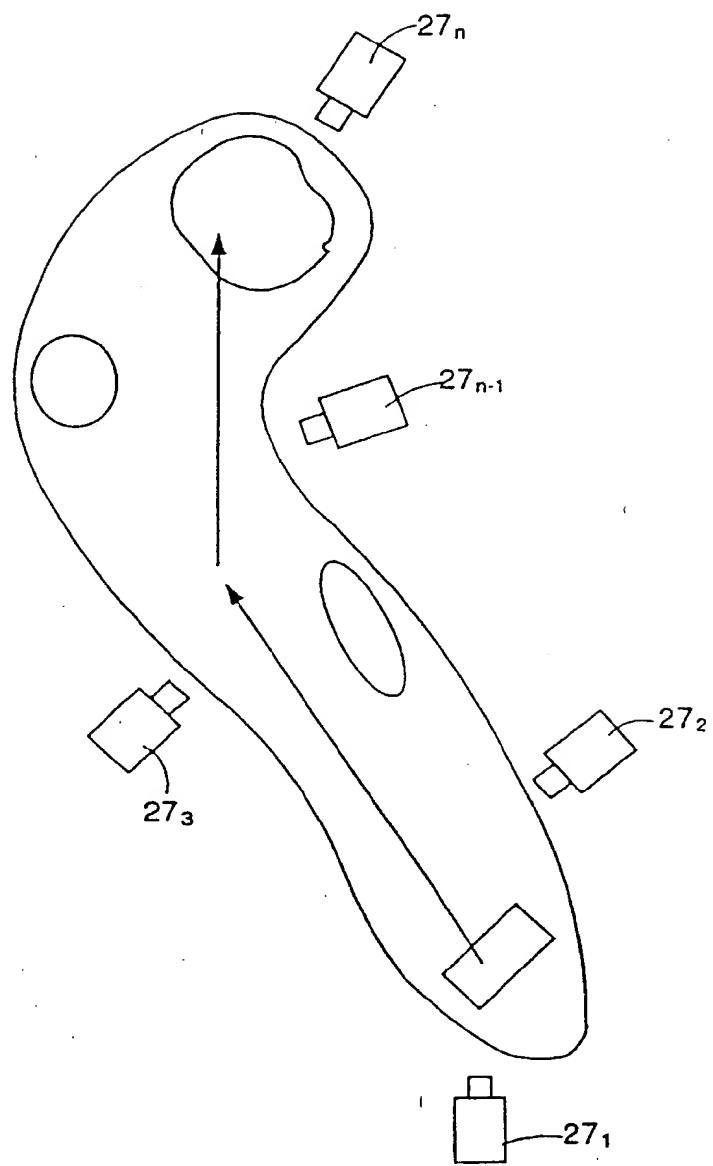


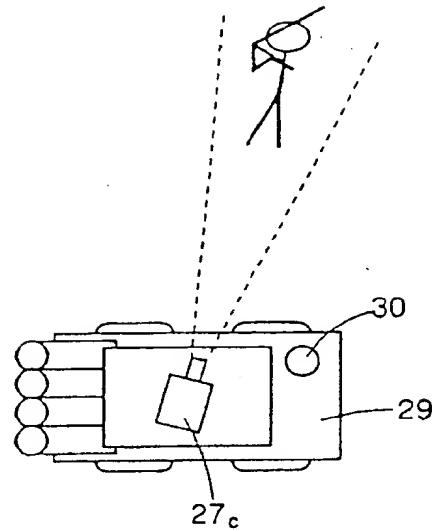
FIG. 1



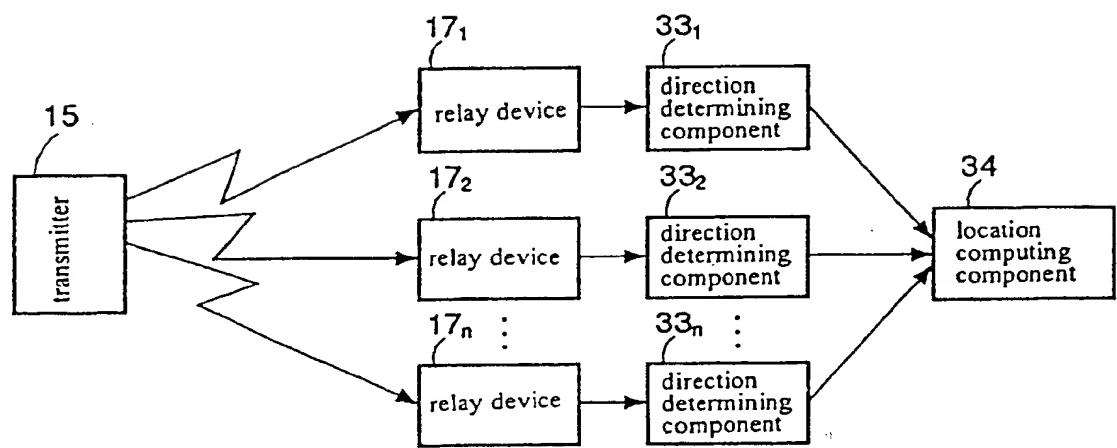
F I G. 2



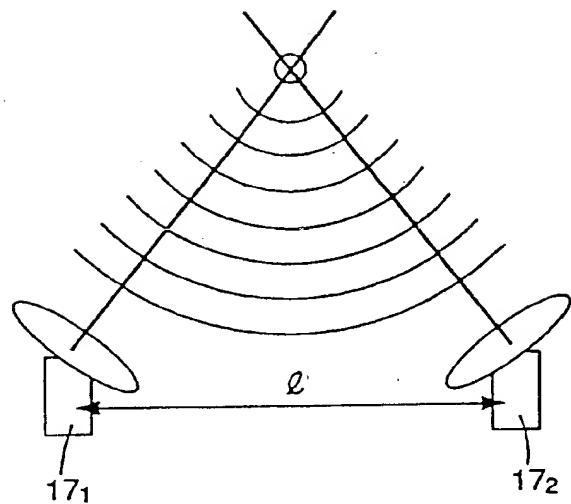
F I G. 3



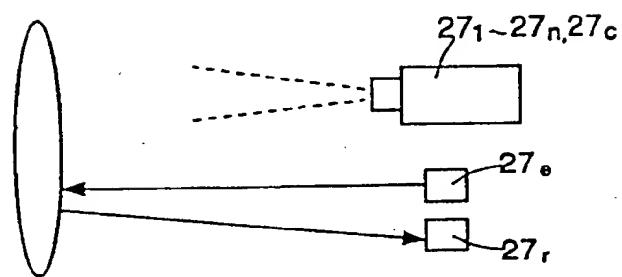
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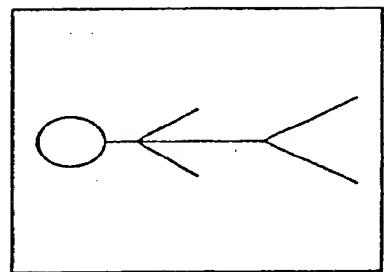
F I G. 5



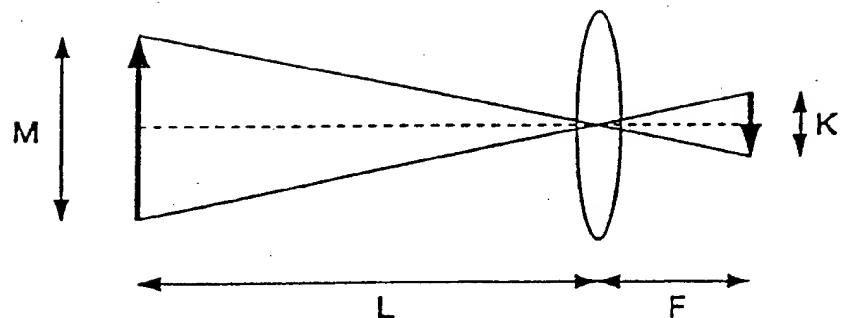
F I G. 6



F I G. 7



F I G. 8



F I G. 9

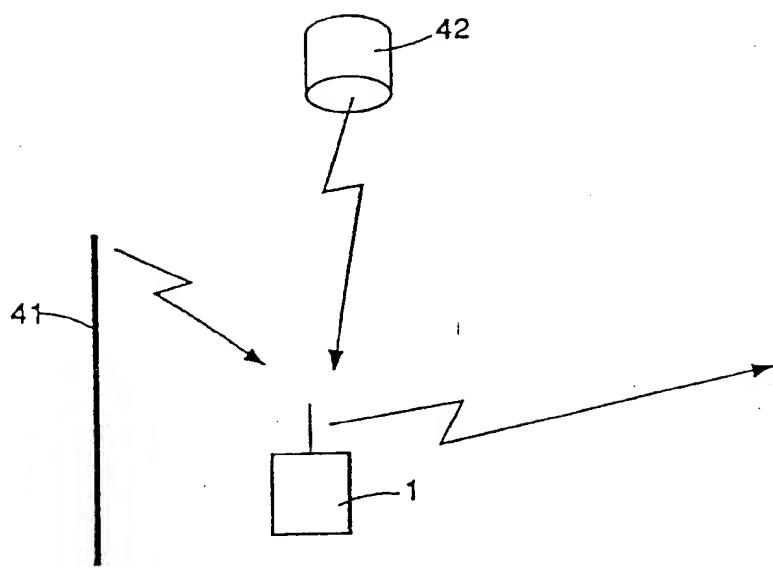
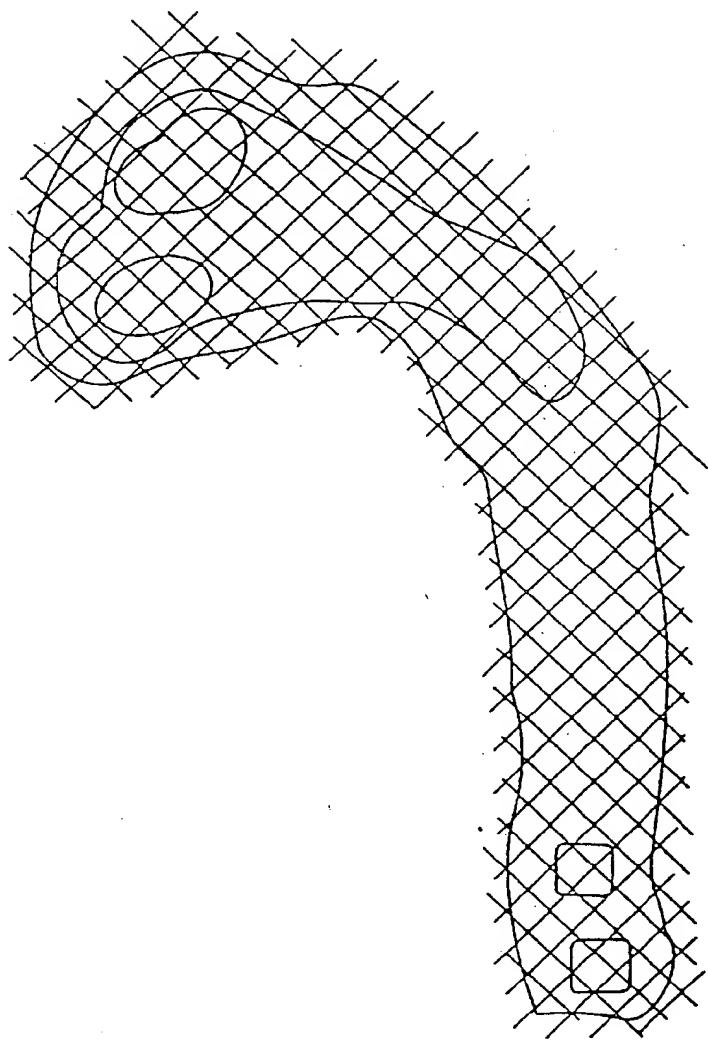


FIG. 10



F I G. 11

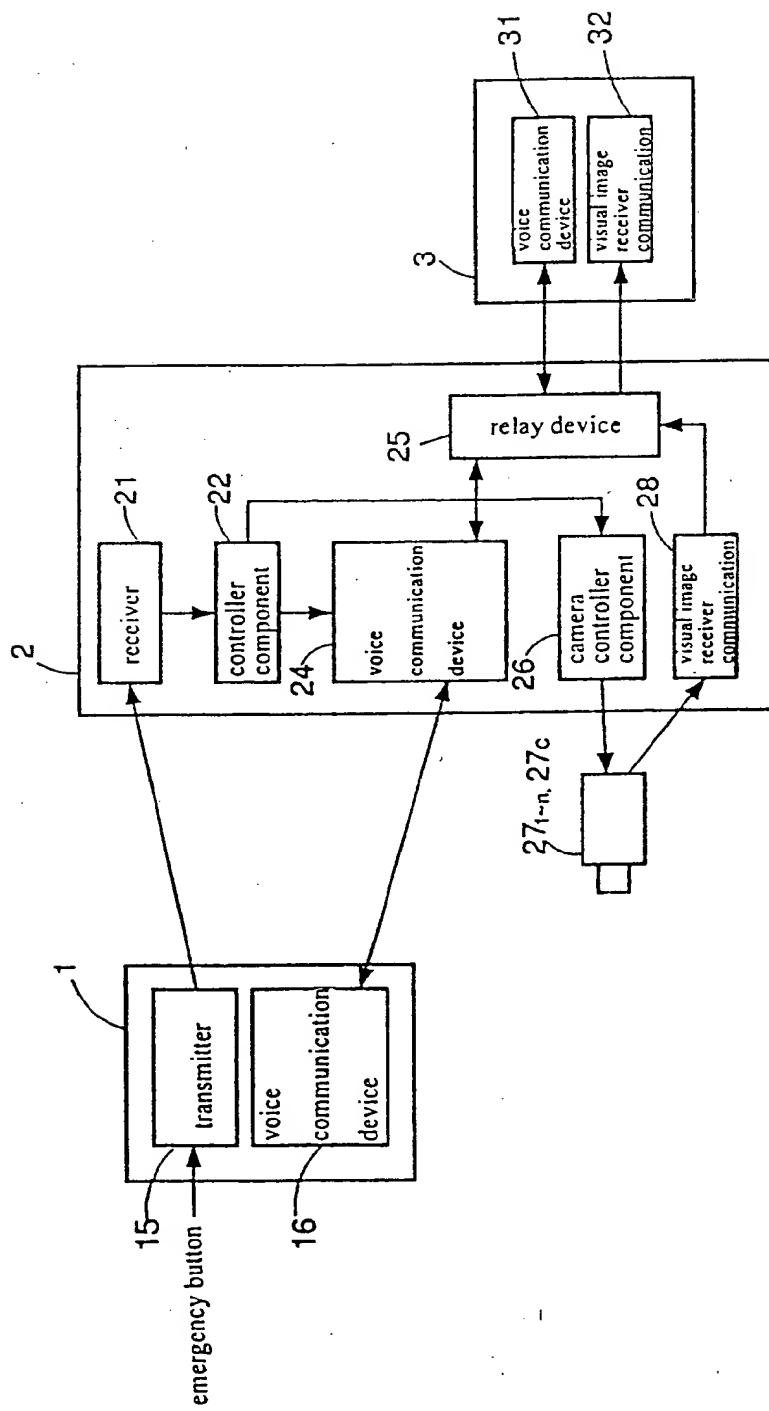


FIG. 12

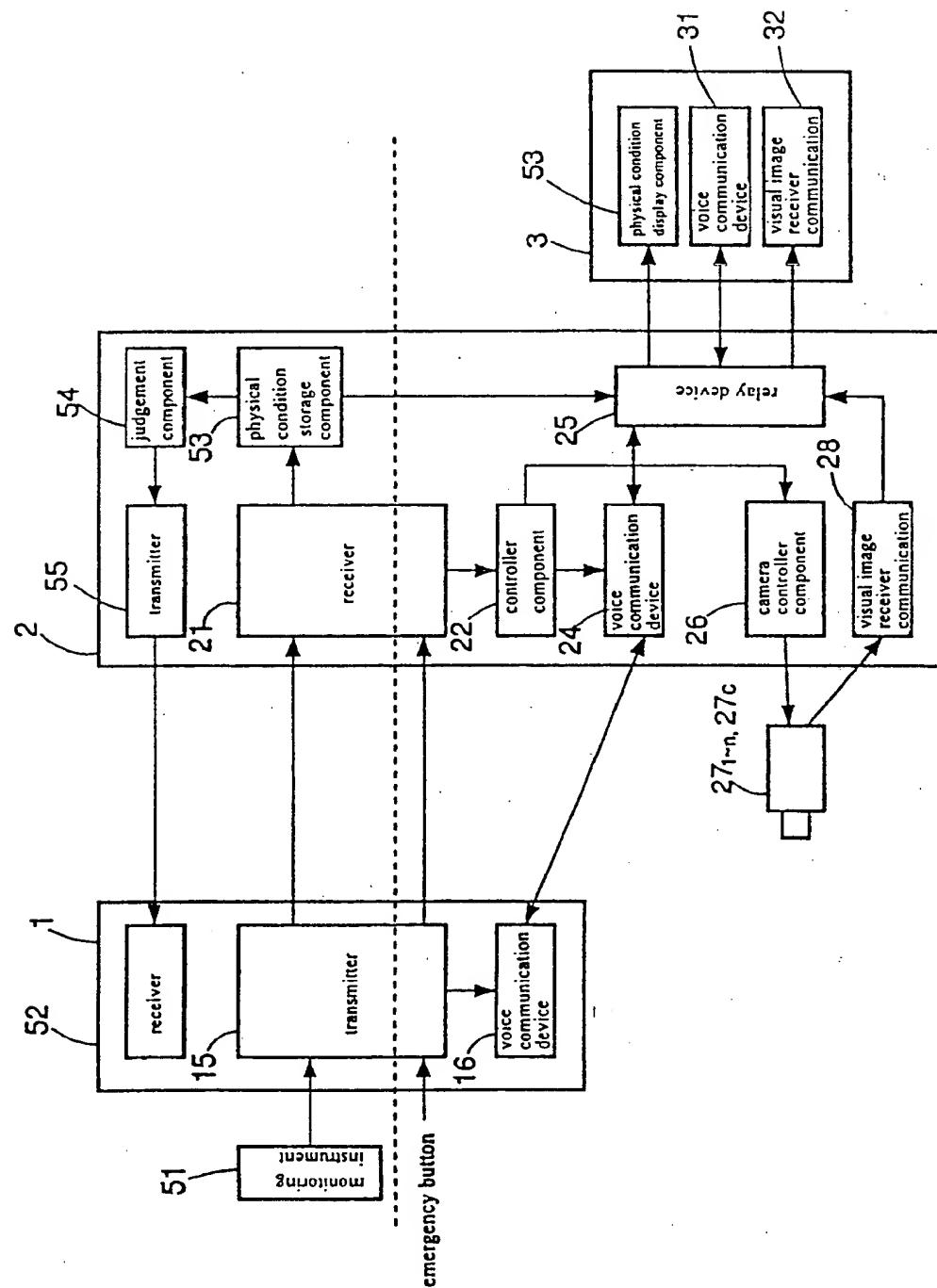


FIG. 13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP94/01074

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl⁶ H04N7/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int. Cl⁵ H04N7/00-7/18, A61B5/00-5/22, A63B71/02

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1926 - 1994
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971 - 1994

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP, A, 4-327832 (Anarogic Corp.), November 17, 1992 (17. 11. 92), (Family: none)	1
Y		2-5
Y	JP, A, 62-163489 (Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.), July 20, 1987 (20. 07. 87), (Family: none)	2-5
Y	JP, A, 5-27673 (Daiichi Building Kanri K.K.), February 5, 1993 (05. 02. 93), (Family: none)	3-5

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

• Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
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Date of the actual completion of the international search September 27, 1994 (27. 09. 94)	Date of mailing of the international search report October 11, 1994 (11. 10. 94)
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office Facsimile No.	Authorized officer Telephone No.
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